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34. (New) The overboot of claim 32, wherein the band comprises a cord removably tied to the upper portion of the overboot for constriction thereof.

REMARKS

Prior to substantive examination, Applicant is adding additional claims for consideration. Support for the new claims can be found through the application as originally filed. As such, no new matter is being added.

Before addressing the merits of the new claims submitted herewith, a summary of the art relied upon by the Examiner in previously rejecting the claims is warranted.

U.S. Patent No. 4,947,882

U.S. Patent No. 4,947,882 is directed to a crutch or a walking stick and discloses a walking aid having a riser, a foot defining a supporting polygon of five solid rubber inserts and a ball-and-socket joint connecting the riser to the foot. The five solid rubber inserts are mounted to the foot portion of the walking aid for interaction with the ground.

U.S. Patent No. 4,630,626

U.S. Patent No. 4,630,626 is directed at a crutch tip construction having an upper tubular stem portion, constant along its length, and a lower portion consisting of a concave metallic socket insert and a solid rubber base.

U.S. Patent No. 960,700

U.S. Patent No. 960,700 is directed at a crutch tip and discloses a metal plate insert in a solid rubber crutch tip to better distribute the weight of the user thereby diminishing wear to the tip.

U.S. Patent N . 4,964,430

U.S. Patent No. 4,964,430 is directed at a walking aid and discloses a toothed tubular member, constructed of a hard material, attachable to an end of a walking cane. The teeth extend downward at the base of the tubular member for interaction with ice or other mire.

U.S. Patent No. 5,713,382

U.S. Patent No. 5,713,382 is directed at a walking aid and describes a non-flexible solid rubber base with a generally convex base on its sides. The walking aid provides a hollow cylindrical section for insertion into a mating cylindrical member and attached thereto by means of a threaded aperture and a threaded screw.

U.S. Patent No. 5,711,103

U.S. Patent No. 5,711,103 is directed at a bi pod mounting device for attaching a bipod to the forearm stock portion of a firearm. The bipod provides generally flat, metal feet with optional ridges formed therein to prevent slippage.

U.S. Patent No. 612,685

U.S. Patent No. 612,685 is directed at coupling two cylindrical members together and provides a light metal tube and clamps in the form of rings or bands of metal secured to the mating cylindrical members through set screws.

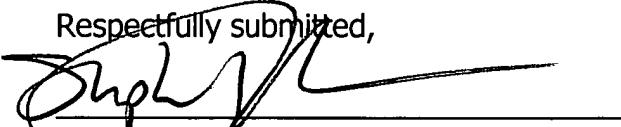
The new claims submitted herewith have been drafted to more particularly define the subject invention over the art of record. In this regard, the preamble of each of the claims now specifically recites "an overboot in combination with a foot portion of

a multiple-legged firearm support assembly". Furthermore, independent claims 20 and 32 recite a thin-walled, flexible structure that among other limitations includes an upper diameter that is significantly smaller than a diameter of the lower portion of the foot portion. Independent Claim 32 additionally recites a plurality of slots and fingers to accommodate the greater maximum diameter of the lower portion of the foot in relation to the substantially smaller diameter of the upper portion of the overboot. These limitations are not taught nor suggested by the art of record. Additionally, the invention defined by independent claims 20 and 32 would not have been obvious to those skilled in the art. Limitations even further yet defining the subject invention patentably over the art of record are set forth in the dependent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20 and 32 and claims 21-31 and claims 33-34 respectively dependent therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to favorably examine this application on its merits. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 20-34 have been added.